WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of call processing comprising:

receiving, at a softswitch executing on a computer, a plurality of calls for switching;

monitoring at least one criteria associated with operation of the computer; and

based on the monitoring, limiting the number of calls processed by the computer.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the computer has a processing system and a memory, and the softswitch has a plurality of signaling subsystems, and wherein the at least one criteria is selected from the group consisting of the amount of usage of at least a portion of the processing system, the amount of usage of the memory, and the number of the plurality of calls that are being processed by each of the plurality of subsystems.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the computer comprises a memory, and wherein the at least one criteria comprises the amount of usage of the memory.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the computer comprises a processor, and wherein the at least one criteria comprises the amount of usage of the processor.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the softswitch has a plurality of signaling subsystems and the at least one criteria comprises the number of the plurality of calls that are being processed by each of the plurality of subsystems.

6. The method of Claim 3, and further comprising limiting the number of calls in response to determining that the amount of usage of the memory exceeds approximately 80-85% of the capacity of the memory.

7. The method of Claim 4, and further comprising limiting the number of calls in response to determining the amount of usage of the processor exceeds approximately 90-95% of the amount of capacity of the processor.

8. The method of Claim 5, and further comprising limiting the number of calls processed by the computer in response to determining that the number of the plurality of calls being processed by the computer exceeds approximately 50% of capacity of buffers of the softswitch for processing calls.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein limiting the number of calls processed by the computer comprises accepting no additional calls processed by the computer.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein limiting the number of calls processed by the computer comprises limiting the number of calls processed by the computer until the at least one criteria associated with operation of the computer reaches an acceptable level.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein limiting the number of calls comprises accepting no additional calls until the at least one criteria associated with operation of the computer reaches an acceptable level.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein the computer comprises a memory and wherein the acceptable level is an amount of usage of the memory that is 75-80% of the capacity of the memory.

13. The method of Claim 11, wherein the computer comprises a processor and wherein the acceptable level is the amount of usage of the processor that is 90% of the capacity of the processor.

14. A system for call processing comprising:

a computer having a processor and an associated memory;

a softswitch operating on the computer for processing calls; and

program code stored on the memory and operable to:

monitor at least one criteria associated with the operation of the computer; and

in response to determining that at least one criteria exceeds an acceptable level, limit additional calls processed by the softswitch until the at least one criteria reaches a desired level.

15. The system of Claim 14, wherein the at least one criteria is selected from the group consisting of the amount of usage of the processor, the amount of usage of the memory, and the number of calls processed by the softswitch at any given time.

16. The system of Claim 14, wherein the softswitch comprises a plurality of signaling subsystems and wherein the at least one criteria is selected from the group consisting of the amount of usage of the processor, the amount of usage of the memory, and the number of calls processed by at least one of the signaling subsystems at any given time.

17. The system of Claim 14, wherein the at least once criteria is the amount of usage by the processor.

18. The system of Claim 14, wherein the at least one criteria is the amount of usage by the memory.

19. The system of Claim 14, wherein the at least one criteria is the number of calls being processed by the softswitch at any given time.

20. The system of Claim 17, wherein limiting additional calls comprises limiting additional calls in response to determining that the amount of usage of the processor exceeds 90-95% of the capacity of the processor.

21. The system of Claim 18, wherein limiting additional calls comprises limiting additional calls in response to determining that the amount of usage of the memory exceeds 80-85% of the capacity of the memory.

22. A method of call processing comprising:

receiving, at a softswitch executing on a computer, a plurality of calls, the computer having a processor and an associated memory;

monitoring a plurality of criteria associated with operation of the computer, the plurality of criteria including the amount of usage of the processor, the amount of usage of the memory, and the number of calls being processed by the softswitch;

in response to determining that one of the plurality of criteria exceeds an acceptable level, blocking any additional calls from being processed by the softswitch until the one criteria that exceeded an acceptable level reaches an acceptable return level.

23. The method of Claim 21, wherein the acceptable level for the amount of memory usage is 80-85% of the capacity of the memory.

24. The method of Claim 21, wherein the acceptable level for the amount of processor usage is 90-95% of the capacity of the processor.

25. The method of Claim 21, wherein the return level for the amount of memory usage is 75-80% of the capacity of the memory.

26. The method of Claim 21, wherein the return level for the amount of processor usage is 85-90% of the capacity of the processor.